

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to more clearly define and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants consider to be the present invention. Basis for the amendments can be found in original specification and original Claims 2, 8, 10 and 12, which have been cancelled by the present amendment. Claims 3, 5-7 and 11 have been amended to establish proper dependency. Claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice.

No new matter has been added by these amendments. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11, 13-20 are pending. No additional claims fee is believed due.

REJECTIONS

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Perry et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8, 10, 12, 13 and 16-20 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Perry et al. (US 6,368,359). The Examiner states that Perry et al. teaches a process that contacts an article with decamethylcyclopentasiloxane solvent, removes the solvent, contacts the solvent with salt solutions or a weak acid mixture followed by a weak base mixture (which the Examiner considers to be the equivalents of the emulsion step and the pretreating step), then separates and dries the solvent (which the Examiner considers to be the equivalents of the recovering step and the purifying step), and finally reuses the solvent. The Examiner asserts that said process meets all the material limitations of the present claims.

Applicants submit that Perry et al. is directed to a dry cleaning process using a cyclosiloxane solvent. There is no disclosure in Perry et al. relating to a process wherein the fabric is treated with an emulsion comprising water and a lipophilic fluid.

Moreover, the presently claimed invention includes a pretreating step selected from sedimentation, centrifugation, cyclonic action exposure, decantation, filtration, temperature modification, and combinations thereof, none of which is disclosed by Perry et al.

Since Perry et al. does not disclose every claim limitation of the presently claimed invention, Perry et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Durr et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8, 10, 12, 20 and 21 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Durr et al. (US 3,692,467). The Examiner states that Durr et al. teaches a textile

treating process wherein water, dye and perchloroethylene are added to a washing machine; after rinsing, the fabrics are spun and the solvent and water are separated via vaporization, condensing, additional separation and coalescer. The Examiner asserts that said process meets all the material limitations of the present claims.

Applicants point out that according to the disclosure of Durr et al., represented in Fig 1 and 2 of Durr et al., the contaminated solvent, presumably in the form of a water/solvent emulsion, passes through a still (43), then a condenser (44), then a water separator (46), which may include a coalescer (77) and water screen (80). Durr et al. does not disclose the presently claimed invention, which comprises several sequential steps including a fourth, purifying step selected from distillation, extraction, stripping, enzyme addition, ion exchange, desiccant drying, adsorption, and combinations thereof.

Since Durr et al. does not disclose every claim limitation of the presently claimed invention, Durr et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103 over Perry et al. in view of Berndt et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-21 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Perry et al. in view of Berndt et al. (US 6,063,135). The Examiner acknowledges that Perry et al. does not disclose a pretreating step comprising filtration with activated carbon. The Examiner states that Berndt et al. discloses a process for dry cleaning fabric articles by contacting it with a composition comprising decamethyl cyclopentasiloxane solvent and additives such as detergents and suspending agents; during the cleaning process, the composition may pass through a filtration system to remove particulates and impurities. The Examiner concluded that it appears such a filtration step is well known in the dry cleaning art, so it would be an obvious choice to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants submit that neither Perry or Berndt teach or suggest a process wherein the fabric is treated with an emulsion comprising water and a lipophilic fluid.

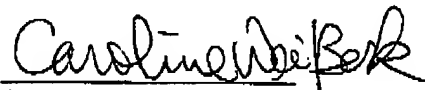
Further, Applicants submit that Berndt's filtration system is applied to a composition comprising a cyclosiloxane solvent and chemical additives; the filtrant may optionally comprise particulates and impurities removed from the fabric article being dry cleaned. There is no teaching or suggestion of a filtration system being applied to an emulsion comprising water and lipophilic fluid.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that Perry/Berndt does not render the presently claimed invention obvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the above represents a complete response to the Office Action and overcomes all the rejections. Withdrawal of rejections and issuance of a notice of allowability are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
FOR: Deak et al.



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